

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 RSC-01

COME-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 OIC-04 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1837

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: FAO CONFERENCE: PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET, 1974-75

FODAG

FROM USDEL TO FAO CONFERENCE

REF: A. ROME 12271, B. ROME 12526

1. SUMMARY: THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT AMONG DCS FOR EFFORT REDUCE BUDGET LEVEL BELOW \$108.5 MILLION PROPOSED BY DG, BUT NO COUNTRY OTHER THAN US (AND POSSIBLY SOME EE'S) APPARS TO HAVE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ABSTENTION OR VOTE AGAINST \$105.2 - \$108.5 MILLION BUDGET UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO REVIEW USDEL INSTRUCTIONS.

2. USDEL EFFORTS ELICIT SUPPORT AND ASCERTAIN VIEWS OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE HAD MIXED RESULTS. AMONG DCS FRG, FRANCE, UK, CANADA, DENMARK, AND A FEW OTHERS ARE SUPPORTING EFFORT STRONGLY. FRG HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING, BUT HAS INDICATED MARK REVALUATION MAKES IT HESITATE TO TAKE LEAD (FRG DEL COMMENTED HE ASSUMED US SUBJECT SIMILAR INHIBITION DUE 25 PERCENT ASSESSMENT ISSUE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE PROPOSAL). DENMARK MADE

STRONG REFERENCE IN PLENARY SPEECH (NOVEMBER 13) TO UNHAPPINESS AT WAY BUDGET HANDLED. UK HAD HARDEST POSITION AGAINST BUDGET INCREASE ORIGINALLY (INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE AGAINST IF IN COMPANY ONE OTHER MAJOR DONOR), BUT UK DEL INFORMED USDEL INSTRUCTIONS CHANGED SO THAT UK WILL GO ALONG WITH OTHER EC COUNTRIES. JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AND AUSTRALIA CONSULTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, BUT VIRTUALLY SILENT ON INTENTIONS.

3. POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA MADE STRONG PLENARY STATEMENTS AGAINST BUDGET LEVEL, INDICATING THAT FAO BUDGET SHOULD NOT INCREASE FASTER THAN MEMBER COUNTRIES' NATIONAL PRODUCTS. POLISH DEL INFORMED US THEY RECEPTIVE US EFFORT SET BUDGET LIMIT. USDEL HAS NOT YET MADE EXTENSIVE CANVAS LDC'S, BUT EFFORT SO FAR INDICATES ATTITUDES RANGING FROM FULL SUPPORT OF DG'S BUDGET LEVEL TO LUKEWARM SUPPORT OF EFFORT TO SET LIMIT. US AND OTHER KEY DC DELEGATIONS AGREED NOVEMBER 12 TO MAKE BROAD EFFORT CANVAS OTHER DELEGATIONS.

4. USDEL NOW COMMITTED TO EFFORT REDUCE BUDGET. WE HAVE INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING WITH GG COUNTRIES WHO EXPECT US TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND TAKE LEAD IN PROPOSING \$105 MILLION LIMIT, IF NECESSARY. THERE REMAINS POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT SECRETARIAT WILLING TO "NEGOTIATE" ON BUDGET LEVEL. WE HAVE RECEIVED HINTS OF SOME SOFTENING OF SECRETARIAT ATTITUDE, WHICH WE INTEND TO EXPLORE IN NEXT FEW DAYS. RECENT SHARP IMPROVEMENT DOLLAR/LIRA RATE HAS FACILITATED THIS. IF SECRETARIAT WILLING "NEGOTIATE," WE SUSPECT THEY WOULD PRESS HARD FOR LIMIT NO LOWER THAN \$106 OR \$107 MILLION, BUT THIS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

5. USDEL CANNOT PROVIDE BETTER ASSESSMENT AT THIS STAGE. BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER, HOWEVER, WHETHER USDEL INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD NOW BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY. DISCUSSION PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET SCHEDULED IN COMMISSION II NOVEMBER 19-21. THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITY REQUEST AMENDED INSTRUCTIONS. WHILE USDEL INTENDS PRESS CASE FOR \$105 MILLION LIMIT, WE NOT NOW AUTHORIZED VOTE FOR BUDGET LEVEL GREATER THAN \$105,204,000 PLUS ANY ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (SEE REFTEL B). ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR US POSITION, WE CANNOT COUNT ON ANY DELEGATION JOINING US IN VOTING AGAINST OR ABSTAINING ON THE BUDGET.

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6. USDEL BELIEVES OUR INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE SERVED IF US IS ISOLATED OR VIRTUALLY ISOLATED IN VOTING AGAINST THE BUDGET. ALTHOUGH 25 PERCENT ISSUE WENT SMOOTHLY IN THE COUNCIL, WE HAVE NO GUARANTEE THAT ISSUE WILL NOT BE EXPLOITED IN THE CONFERENCE. FACT THAT US REDUCED ASSESSMENT WOULD BE ACHIEVED ENTIRELY DUE SEVEN PERCENTAGE POINTS TO BE CONTRIBUTED BY CHINA WILL NOT BE OVERLOOKED. SOME MEMBER NATIONS MAY ALSO QUESTION CONSISTENCY

OUR SUPPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL ADDITION TO BUDGET FOR WFC, WHILE
PRESSING FOR BUDGET LIMIT.

7. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REVIEW PARA. 7, ANNEX 11 OF US CONFERENCE
POSITION AND PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS ASAP, BUT NO
LATER THAN NOVEMBER 17. VOLPE

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